

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SOFIA 00853 201125Z

13

ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /016 W
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FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1115

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USIA FOR ICS (INFO: IEU)
STATE FOR EUR/EE, CU/EE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SCUL, BU
SUBJECT: EXHIBIT: "REFLECTIONS"

REF: (A) SOFIA 847; (B) USIA 8791

1. FOLLOWING DISCUSSION OF THRACIAN ART EXHIBIT (REF A) WITH PROFESSOR FOL OF COMMITTEE ON ART AND CULTURE, CHARGE EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT NO DEFINITIVE ANSWER HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM GOB ON STAGING OF U.S. EXHIBIT "REFLECTIONS" DESPITE FACT U.S. HAD RAISED THE MATTER IN DECEMBER 1975. ALTHOUGH HE FIRST CONFUSED "FEFLECTIONS" WITH "PHOTOGRAPHY USA", FOL EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN "REFLECTIONS". BUT, HE SAID, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAD NEVER REFERRED QUESTION OF STAGING "REFLECTIONS" TO COMMITTEE. WHILE COMMITTEE WAS THE COMPETENT BODY FOR ARTISTIC AND TECHNICAL MATTERS INVOLVED IN STAGING FOREIGN EXHIBITS IN BULGARIA, REFERRAL FROM MINISTRY TO COMMITTEE WAS NECESSARY FIRST STEP (BY IMPLICATION, IN THE POLITICAL VETTING PROCESS). NEVERTHELESS, SAID FOL, HE WOULD HAVE HIS STAFF CONTACT MFA TO FIND OUT WHERE THE MATTER LAY.

2. COMMENT: FRANKLY, WE HAD THOUGHT BOTTLENECK WAS THE COMMITTEE AND THAT FOL'S HARD-LINE BOSS, LYUDMILA
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PAGE 02 SOFIA 00853 201125Z

ZHIVKOVA, WAS RESISTING ON IDEOLOGICAL GROUNDS, BUT

FOL'S DEMEANOR GIVES EVERY INDICATION THAT THIS IS NOT THE CASE. AFTER HEARING THE EXHIBIT DESCRIBED, NOTING SPACE NECESSARY AND REQUIRED LEAD TIME FOR TRANSLATION OF CAPTIONS, FOL THOUGHT ALOUD THAT OCTOBER-NOVEMBER WOULD BE VERY GOOD TIME FOR STAGING-- WHICH WOULD SUIT OUR PURPOSES THOROUGHLY (REF B).

3. AFTER WAITING A FEW DAYS FOR FOL'S INQUIRIES TO TAKE ROOT, I PLAN TO CALL ON CHAVDAR DAMYANOV, FOLLOWING UP LETTER WRITTEN LAST WEEK WHICH EXPRESSES DISMAY AT CONTINUED DELAYS. AT THAT TIME I INTEND TO STATE THAT THESE DELAYS SEEM TO US A VERY POOR AUGURY FOR MUTURAL COOPERATION UNDER THE CULTURAL-SCIENTIFIC AGREEMENT NOW UNDER STUDY IN WASHINGTON. THUS WOULD APPRECIATE IT GREATLY IF USIA WOULD ALLOW US A FEW DAYS MORE TO BRING THIS MATTER TO A HEAD.
FELDMAN

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